

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 5139

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS USMISSION USUN NY, AMEMBASSY LONDON
AND AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UK, ZA
SUBJ: ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON UK ROLE IN
AFRICA AND OWEN/THOMSON VISIT TO LUSAKA

1. IN COURSE OF RECEPTION APRIL 10 FOR DELEGATES
ATTENDING THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR-
EIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN NEW DELHI (NACCFM), UNGA PRE-
SIDENT AMERASINGHE INTRODUCED USUN OFFICER HIRSCH TO
ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE AS AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. MWALE ENTERED INTO A 20-
MINUTE DISCUSSION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, INCLUDING
HIS VIEW OF THE BRITISH AND US ROLES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA,
AS WELL AS THE ZAMBIAN POSITION TOWARDS THE STRUGGLE
AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. THIS MESSAGE
SUMMARIZES THE PORTION OF THE CONVERSATION GIVING HIS
VIEW OF THE UK ROLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE OTHER
ASPECTS ARE COVERED IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

2. MWALE SAID THAT ZAMBIA HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE THE
BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, DAVID OWEN, AND LORD THOMSON
IN LUSAKA ABOUT APRIL 14. THE ZAMBIANS, HOWEVER, WERE
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NOT INTERESTED IN "TALKING ABOUT THE NEED TO TALK ABOUT
SOUTH AFRICA." MWALE SEEMED GENUINELY PUZZLED AS TO
WHY OWEN AND THOMSON WERE COMING TO ZAMBIA, AND RELUCT-
ANT TO MEET WITH THEM.

3. MWALE STATED BLUNTLY THAT THE BRITISH HAD ACTED
WITH DUPLICITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THEY HAD ASKED

ZAMBIA TO APPLY AN OIL EMBARGO AGAINST RHODESIA, WHILE THEY THEMSELVES HAD CONSCIOUSLY VIOLATED IT. INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES SUCH AS BP HAD CONTINUED TO SHIP OIL TO RHODESIA THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA. ZAMBIA HAD ACCUMULATED A LARGE DOSSIER OF BRITISH VIOLATIONS OF UN SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA AND WAS PREPARING TO FILE SUIT AGAINST HMG. ASKED WHERE THIS SUIT WOULD BE FILED, MWALE SAID THAT THIS WAS A MATTER STILL TO BE DECIDED, BUT THAT IT MIGHT BE IN LONDON. HE MENTIONED THAT THE GOZ HAD ALREADY WON A SUIT AGAINST THE GUARDIAN FOR PUBLISHING LIBELOUS STATEMENTS AGAINST PRESIDENT KAUNDA.

4. THE BRITISH, MWALE CONTINUED, COULD HAVE BLOCKED RHODESIAN UDI AT THE OUTSET IF THEY HAD REALLY WANTED TO. BLACK RHODESIANS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND ARMY WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED THE BRITISH LEAD. INSTEAD, THE BRITISH HAD DONE NOTHING TO PREVENT SMITH'S CONSOLIDATION OF POWER. THEY MUST ASSUME A LARGE MEASURE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION.
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